

Perforated Cancellations.

By R. BRADSHAW SMITH.

IN looking through a quantity of used Post Cards, dating from 1870 to 1874, I found several different forms of cancellation by perforation and snipouts. Not having seen or heard of any I am about to describe (except Fig. 1 which I have known for some years as the provisional trial cancellation used in the first issue of Postcards), perhaps an account of my find will be of interest to the readers of the *E.S.J.* and lead to other varieties being found. These forms of cancellation were only used on the first issue of Post Cards, described by Philbrick and Westoby as Type I., violet on light buff, two sizes—better known as with the border and the TO.—first issued in October, 1870. In all I have seen 221 cards so cancelled, four of which were on the larger card. All these cards bear no other postmark whatever. The perforations are on the face of the stamps, while the snipouts are generally close to the stamps in the margin of the cards. They appear to have been done with an instrument like a ticket examiner's clip. It was a trial obliteration and was used only at the large post offices—London, Manchester, Liverpool, and Edinburgh. The arrowhead variety, fig. 5 in London—different modifications as well as the arrowhead at Liverpool—the snipouts all appear on postcards posted at Manchester. There were two distinct arrowhead punches used, one with the holes clearly cut out, the other fairly described as pinhole, in which no portion of the card was removed. The earliest date I have found was 7-11-70, and the latest 24-8-74, so they were in use off and on about four years. There were two sizes in the holes clear cut as is well shown in figs. 5, and 7; fig. 6 represents what I have called the pinhole variety. I have to thank Mr. Walter Morley for kindly lending me a number of these cancellations, principally from Liverpool. In his catalogue just issued he shows the arrow shafts with 5 holes, I have only seen them with 4; again all these holes are perfectly round, and not in the shape of the letter O. The following synopsis shows the relative frequency of the different forms of obliteration in the cards I have seen:

Fig. 1.— 2 (in this lot), posted in Manchester.

„ 2.—69, all posted in Manchester.

„ 3.—21 do. do.

„ 4.— 2 do. do.

„ 5.—14, posted in London.

„ 5.—(holes size of Fig. 7), 16, posted in Liverpool.

„ 6.—Pinhole, 31, posted Liverpool and London.

„ 7.— 1, posted in London.

„ 8.— 3, posted in Liverpool.

„ 9.— 1, do. do.

„ 10.—14, posted Liverpool except 2 Ormskirk, 1 Hanley, 1 Wigan,
1 Birmingham.

Fig. 10.—(holes size of Fig. 7), 15, posted Liverpool except 1, Newtown, (Mon.) Barrow-in-Furness, 1 Werdon, 1 Glasgow, 1 Widnes, 1, Rugby.

„ 11.— 6, 3 posted in Liverpool, 1 Glasgow, 1 Widnes, 1 Rugby.

„ 12.— 6, posted in Liverpool.

„ 13.— 2, do. do.

„ 14.— 5, do. do.

„ 15.— 2, do. do.

And one card where the arrowhead of fig. 5 was twice on the same card—the cards in this list posted in other places than London, Manchester, Liverpool, and Edinburgh were all delivered in Liverpool and may have been cancelled at the office of delivery—there were several cards posted at the same offices, about the same dates cancelled by the ordinary obliteration stamp of the office where posted.

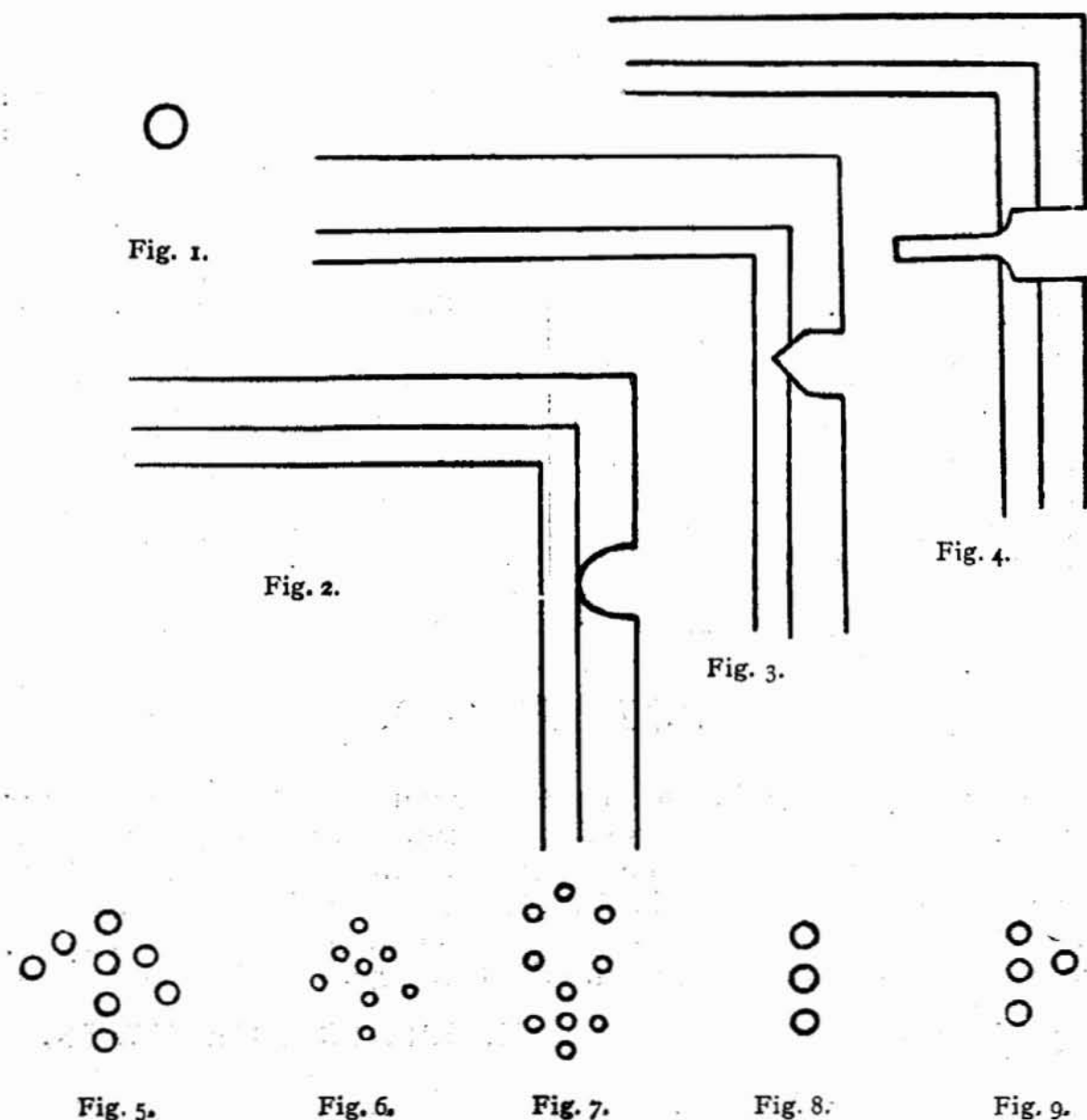




Fig. 10.



Fig. 11.



Fig. 12.



Fig. 13.



Fig. 14.

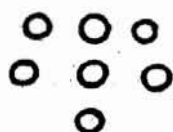


Fig. 15.

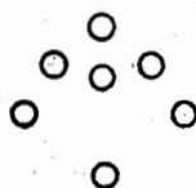


Fig. 16.



Fig. 17.

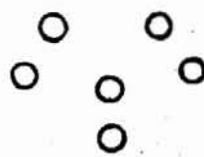


Fig. 18.

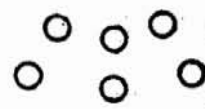


Fig. 19.

Since writing the above I have, through the kindness of Mr. Ewen, seen another lot of these perforations, 88 in number, including 78 small and 10 large cards. Figures 17, 18 and 19 are fresh finds.

This is a synopsis of Mr. Ewen's cards :

Fig. 1.— 1, not dated.

„ 2.—25, at Manchester.

„ 3.—30 do.

„ 4.— 3 do.

„ 5.— 1, posted London.

„ 5.— 5, holes as fig. 6, Liverpool.

„ 6.— 7, Liverpool.

„ 10.— 2 do.

„ 11.— 3 do.

Fig. 12.— 1, Liverpool.

„ 13.— 1 do.

„ 14.— 1 do.

„ 15.— 1 do.

„ 16.— 1 do.

„ 17.— 2 do.

„ 18.— 1 do.

„ 19.— 2 do.